

By: West

H.C.R. No. 51

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1           WHEREAS, The citizens of Midland and Odessa are justly proud  
2 of the many contributions their communities have made to the  
3 building of the Lone Star State; and

4           WHEREAS, Located in the Permian Basin, at the southern edge  
5 of the High Plains, the cities stand some 20 miles apart and have  
6 been shaped by similar historical forces; both originated in the  
7 early 1880s as stopping places along the Texas and Pacific Railway,  
8 and, within a few years of their founding, each had become the seat  
9 of a newly organized county government; today, Midland and Odessa  
10 are home to the overwhelming majority of citizens in Midland and  
11 Ector Counties, respectively; and

12           WHEREAS, Originally trade and shipping centers for the  
13 surrounding ranches, the towns also became important petroleum  
14 centers in the 1920s, when oil was discovered in the Permian Basin;  
15 Midland subsequently developed into an administrative center for  
16 the oil and gas industry, while Odessa became the location of what  
17 is now the largest inland petrochemical complex in the nation; and

18           WHEREAS, During World War II, the economy of the area  
19 benefited from the presence of the Midland Army Air Force Base; one  
20 of the largest training facilities in the world at that time, the  
21 base was home to the Army Air Force Bombardier School from 1942 to  
22 1945; and

23           WHEREAS, United under the slogan "Two Cities--No Limits,"  
24 leaders in both communities have worked together to establish the

1 Midland International Airport and Midland-Odessa Transportation  
2 Alliance; in addition, they have created the Midland-Odessa Health  
3 and Retirement Endeavor, which promotes the attractiveness of the  
4 area as a retirement locale; and

5 WHEREAS, Support for expanding the economic base is also  
6 provided by the Center for Energy and Economic Diversification at  
7 The University of Texas of the Permian Basin (UTPB); in recent  
8 years, Midland and Odessa have welcomed several major new employers  
9 to the area--a distribution center for Family Dollar Stores, Inc.,  
10 a Texas Independent Energy power plant, and a Cingular Wireless  
11 Call Center; and

12 WHEREAS, Both cities can claim the distinction of having been  
13 home to two presidents, George H. W. Bush and George W. Bush, and  
14 visitors to Midland can now tour the George W. Bush Childhood Home;  
15 and

16 WHEREAS, Midland also boasts the western history center and  
17 library established by J. Evetts and Nita Stewart Haley; the Museum  
18 of the Southwest; The Petroleum Museum, with its extensive archival  
19 collection and a new gallery devoted to Jim Hall and his Chaparral  
20 race cars; and the museum of the Commemorative Air Force, which  
21 possesses the most complete collection of flyable World War II  
22 combat aircraft in the country; and

23 WHEREAS, Significant cultural resources in Odessa include  
24 the Ellen Noel Art Museum of the Permian Basin, a replica of the  
25 Globe Theatre, where modern and classical works are staged, and a  
26 museum devoted to the U.S. presidency; since a merger of talents in  
27 1962, the Midland-Odessa Symphony and Chorale has further enriched

1 the cultural life of the communities; and

2 WHEREAS, Area residents are fortunate to have a number of  
3 institutions of higher education in their midst--UTPB and a campus  
4 of the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, both in  
5 Odessa, as well as Midland College and Odessa College; and

6 WHEREAS, For nearly a century and a quarter, the citizens of  
7 Midland and Odessa have sought to preserve the best of their past  
8 while working to build an even brighter and more promising future  
9 for their children, and it is a pleasure to join in commemorating  
10 their outstanding achievements; now, therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, That the 79th Legislature of the State of Texas  
12 hereby designate February 15 as Midland-Odessa Day at the State  
13 Capitol.